10-23
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 1951

✓	ROGERS	
	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
	ANDER	
	STA	
	FUL	
	PROP	
	HO	
✓	M	
✓	C	
✓	S	
✓	E	
✓	CH	
✓	JAY	
	McComas	
✓	KIT	
✓	WOHLG	
	ROBINSON	
	WIGGINS	
	McMULLIN	

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the December 1951 Monthly Narrative Report for
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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WEATHER:	Low temperatures, much snow. Precipitation comparison.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers in Denver; on leave most of month. $700 more allotted for historical project. Presented paper on Mesa Verde to historical assn. Attended meeting with NPS & BPR re roads & Canyon project. Wohlbrandt & Mattson also to meeting. Wright & Miller to Billings for gas tank calibration; Miller to Heart Mountain re fire trucks; McMullin to Billings & Custer re electrical equipment. Gorsuch to Missoula for training on parachute maintenance etc. Joffe, Skinner, Condon, Kittams to Livingston Rod & Gun Club meet. New radio call. Staff meetings. Demaray retirement & Wirth appointment as Director; promotion Allen to Asst. Worked 24th and 31st. Scout snowshoe group in.	1-2
INSPECTIONS:	Landscape Architect Schuster left.	3
IN-SERVICE TRAINING:	Firearms training. Weekly News.	3
PUBLICITY:	"Montana Affairs" contained article by Rogers. AP carried elk reduction story. 87,500 broadsides on hand.	3
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Leave taken. Mattson & Wohlbrandt to Denver re 1952 program.	3
MAINTENANCE:	Much plowing & sanding. Work on road signs.	3
CONSTRUCTION:	Work on camp tables & fireplaces and fire meter.	3-4
CONCESSIONERS:	Y.P.Co. repair shop closed until March. Huntley Child back from Florida; trip to Helena.	4
RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND CHAPEL USE:	Sunday School and Church. Special service 23rd.	4
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Slides & film loaned former seasonal naturalists. Condon asked to speak at meetings.	4

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MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS:	Plans for Moose Exhibit at Willow Park and Old Faithful exhibits. Paintings & exhibits returned from Chicago Art Institute.	4-5
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Work on Norris Geyser Basin story. Grouse, deer, elk in Mammoth. Bighorn observed. Marler report on geysers this winter. Condon article on vandalism; furnished material for writer on same.	5
NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:	Mrs. Quist hired part time by Assn. Marler at Old Faithful on geyser research.	5
INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:	590 vehicles, 1810 persons, nearly same as last Dec. Hunters in; game seen. 6 snowplanes in.	5-6
RANGER SERVICE:	Firearms practice, lost & found items, work on forms, administrative manuals, hunting patrols, elk & buffalo trapping, etc.	6
WILDLIFE: ELK MANAGEMENT:	175 elk moved out by truck. Bison interfere with elk trapping.	6
HUNTING SEASON:	348 elk taken by hunters.	7
BISON:	Preparations for reduction; butchering bid.	7
FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:	Annual Forestry Report & Fire Atlas. Gorsuch to Missoula re training on parachute repair, etc.	7
BLISTER RUST CONTROL:	Director approved extension at Mt. Washburn.	7
BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION:	Fire hazard reports to departments. Extinguisher repair orders sent. Plans for fire training.	7
ACCIDENTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY:	Accident on Gallatin road. Kimberlin injured in runaway.	8
LAW ENFORCEMENT:	Poaching incident unsolved. Judge Wilcox away.	8
BIRTHS:	Son born to Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Povah.	8
MARRIAGES:	Carolyn A. Wohlbrandt and Richard C. Hunt married.	8
DEATHS:	Death of Albert L. McLaughlin.	8
PERSONNEL:	Seasonals Betty Thomas, Thomas Close, Geraldine Lindquist, Genevieve McCabe terminated.	8-9
MISCELLANEOUS:	F.E.U. and A.F.G.E. meetings.	9

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 3, 1952

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Acting Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for December 1951

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of December 1951:

Weather Conditions. Temperatures were below normal and precipitation was above normal for the month. Temperatures of zero or below were recorded on ten days. Precipitation, which was all in the form of snow, fell on 22 days during the month. Strong gale-like winds occurred during the latter part of the month which caused considerable drifting of the snow. The maximum temperature of 40° was recorded on the 1st and the minimum temperature of -14° occurred on the 20th. Total precipitation amounted to 1.59" as compared to 0,83" in 1950, 1.03" in 1949, 2.01 in 1948, 0.74" in 1947, 1.11" in 1946, 1.15" in 1945 and 0.34" in 1944.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers was in Denver throughout the month where he was engaged on work in connection with his project covering the legislative history of National Park Service areas. On December 19 we were advised that the Washington Office had allotted $700 additional for continuing work on this project, making a total allotment for the 1952 fiscal year of $1,200. Mr. Rogers was on annual leave from December 3 through 28 but on December 11 he presented a paper on Mesa Verde National Park to the Colorado State Historical Association in Denver. On December 10 he attended a meeting with National Park Service and Bureau of Public Roads officials in connection with Yellowstone major road priorities and development of the Canyon area. Chief Engineer Wohlbrandt and Resident Landscape Architect Mattson also attended this meeting. The latter two left the park on December 9 to attend this meeting and returned on the 13th.

On December 5 Chief Storekeeper Wright and Shop Foreman Miller went to Billings to have one of the gas tanks calibrated, Mr. Miller continuing on to Heart Mountain to inspect surplus fire trucks for the Region Two Office. They returned on the 7th.

On December 14 Electrical Supervisor McMullin went to Billings to check some electrical equipment and on to Custer to pick up a surplus refrigerator and stove. He returned the following day.

Robert V. Gorsuch, Fire Control Aid (Smoke-Jumper Squad Leader), went to Missoula on December 15 to receive instruction and training in parachute maintenance and other related work incidental to smokejumping. He expects to be gone for about a month.

On the evening of December 20 Messrs. Joffe, Skinner, Condon and Kittams attended the annual meeting of the Park County Rod and Gun Club in Livingston at which new officers were elected and they discussed general wildlife matters.

On December 1 a new radio call for the park became effective. The new call assigned to the park is KOC 700.

Staff meetings including all division heads were held in the superintendent's office on December 7 and 17 with Acting Superintendent Johnston presiding.

Mr. Arthur E. Demaray, Director of the National Park Service since April 1, 1951, retired on December 8 after 48½ years of Federal service. On December 9 Associate Director Conrad L. Wirth assumed the duties of Director and Thomas J. Allen, Regional Director, Region One, was promoted to the position of Assistant Director. Hillory A. Tolson and Ronald F. Lee are the other two Assistant Directors.

Due to the fact that Departmental Order No. 2673 of December 7 was received in the park on the morning of December 27, too late to be put into effect, park employees whose tour of duty was Monday through Friday remained on their regular schedule and accordingly worked on Mondays December 24 and 31. From a park administrative standpoint this appeared to be a more effective operational schedule.

A group known as the "Emergency Service Explorers of the Gallatin Valley" came into the park at West Yellowstone on December 27 on a winter snowshoe expedition to Old Faithful. The group experienced difficulty the first day and two of the men had to return and the party only covered about a half of the contemplated distance that day. The journey was expected to take six days for the round trip but at the end of the third day they had only reached the Firehole Cascades and the party turned back the following day because of bad weather, blistered feet and other difficulties. They expected to be out of the park at West Yellowstone by the evening of January 1. The trip was a decided failure. The party was originally composed of fourteen older Scouts under the leadership of Don Peters, Yellowstone Valley Council Explorer Scouting Commissioner. The boys making the trip were prepared therefor by having received a full month of training instruction including training films, numerous equipment checks, winter survival talks and weekend test runs.

Inspections.

Charles Schuster, Landscape Architect, Region Two, who has been on assignment in Yellowstone since July 4, departed on December 16 on annual leave until January 18 and will then return to Omaha.

In-Service Training. On December 11 and 12 eleven Park Rangers each received one hour of classroom instruction on the subject of firearms in law enforcement. Twelve rangers received in addition a total of 55 man-hours of instruction and practice on the firearms range. Safety in handling firearms was emphasized and the trainees were given an opportunity to practice with both rifles and revolvers to improve their ability to handle these weapons

The Weekly Newsletter was issued each Thursday during the month to keep employees, concessioners and others currently informed on park happenings.

Publicity. "Montana Affairs", official publication of the Montana Chamber of Commerce, for December, contained an article on the park written by Superintendent Rogers.

On December 20 the Associated Press released a story on the park elk reduction program from information furnished by the park.

A total of 86,500 broadsides remained on hand at the end of the month.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Most of the engineering personnel and the Resident Landscape Architect were on annual leave from one to two weeks during the month and Landscape Architect Schuster who had been assigned to the park since July 4 departed on December 16.

Messrs Mattson and Wohlbrandt made a trip to Denver for a joint meeting with Regional personnel and Bureau of Public Roads officials regarding the programming of work for the 1952 season.

Maintenance. Snow plowing was almost continuous during the month and hills required sanding often. Besides keeping the road from Gardiner to Cooke open it was necessary to keep the roads plowed to five elk traps. Snow was from 12" to 36" in depth with drifts up to 6 feet or more.

A large number of road signs were repaired and repainted and a few new signs made. Most of the maintenance was handled by our regular crew.

New Construction. All road construction projects were closed down for the winter.

All other projects except the following were inactive due to winter close-down of work.

Account 233.01. Campground Rehabilitation throughout park--87 fireplaces have been prefabricated and 35 campground tables prefabricated.

Account 332.10. Fire Meter, Mammoth--Concrete vault was extended and placing of meter started. Work about 75% complete.

Concessioners. The Yellowstone Park Company closed its shops at Gardiner on December 1 and expected to keep them closed until about March 1.

Huntley Child, Vice President of the Yellowstone Park Company, returned to the park on December 18 from attendance at the Hotel Association Convention in Miami, Florida, and a visit to Washington, D. C. to the Washington Office, but left a few days later for Helena to spend the holidays there.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The Yellowstone National Park Chapel was used for the regular religious services program for the month and each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. there was the regular Sunday School program. On December 23 the Sunday School had a special service and a program was presented by the pre-school children.

The Rev. A. W. Seebart conducted a church service in the Chapel on the 16th and on the 23rd the community had a special candlelight service with the Rev. Ben Davis preaching the sermon.

Interpretive Services.
No public contacts have been made as part of the interpretive service but materials were sent to former Park Ranger-Naturalists for their use. A set of 360 kodaslides were sent to Frank Shaw for his use in presenting a series of talks on Yellowstone. Also a 16mm movie reel was sent to Mr. Wallace Hennessy for his use. Reports from these men indicate pleased school audiences and they are retaining the material into January to meet requests for programs.

Chief Park Naturalist Condon has been asked to provide the Banquet talk at the Annual Meeting of the Montana Conservation Council in Billings, Montana, on January 25. He also has been asked to participate as one of the instructors in a Wildlife Training Course to be given at Missoula, February 3 to 7 inclusive. This course is sponsored by the United States Forest Service, Montana University and the Montana Wildlife Federation.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The plans for the installation of a Moose Exhibit at Willow Park and for exhibits to go in the Old Faithful Museum were reviewed by Park Naturalist Watson for his additions and suggestions during the month and will be completed, it is hoped, in January.

Account 421.01. [illegible] of [illegible] have been [illegible] and [illegible].

Account 424.10. Fire Lanes. [illegible] extension and placing of [illegible] about [illegible].

[illegible]. [illegible] about March 1.

Stanley Smith, Vice President of the [illegible], returned to the [illegible] on December 20 from attendance at the [illegible] Association Convention in [illegible]. [illegible] D. C. [illegible] Washington [illegible] to spend the holidays there.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. [illegible] Park Chapel was used [illegible] month and each Sunday at [illegible] program. On December [illegible] and a special service and a program was presented by [illegible] musicians.

The Rev. [illegible] conducted a [illegible] service in the Chapel on the 15th and on the 22nd [illegible] and a [illegible] light service with [illegible].

Educational Program.
[illegible] public [illegible] and [illegible] their use. A set of 240 [illegible] was sent to [illegible] and a [illegible] was sent to Mr. [illegible] [illegible].

Chief [illegible] fall of the [illegible] meeting [illegible] in [illegible], Montana, on January [illegible] to [illegible] one of the [illegible] to be given at [illegible], February 3 to 7 [illegible]. [illegible] sponsored by the United States Forest Service, [illegible] and the [illegible] Wildlife Federation.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. [illegible] tion of a [illegible] Old Faithful [illegible] addition and suggestions [illegible], in January.

The Chicago Art Institute returned to Yellowstone the Moran paintings, animal track casts and skulls which were on loan to them for the Franz Lipp exhibit. These were all checked, found to be in good condition and have been carefully stored away.

Research and Observation. Park Naturalist Watson has devoted a good part of his time during the month to a review of all published materials available on the Norris Geyser Basin, preparatory to the preparation of an interpretive manuscript telling the Norris Geyser Basin story.

A large Richardson's Grouse has moved into the community and has been making the rounds to all back porches. There is some question as to whether this is the same bird that visited the area last year. The Rocky Mountain Mule Deer are common all day long in the residential area. During the latter part of the month large numbers of elk were visiting the parade ground and slopes around Mammoth. On several occasions cows and calves have been seen in among the buildings. This has not been common in recent years. On the 19th Park Naturalist Watson watched eleven Bighorn feeding on the slopes of Mount Everts near the Eagle Nest Rock.

George Marler reports that all major geysers in the Upper Basin are erupting regularly and that some have actually been functioning on a shorter interval. The Splendid Geyser has erupted several times during the month and conditions in the Daisy group are in a state of instability which may result in a marked change in this geyser group for the 1952 season. The Grand and Riverside geysers have been erupting on a shorter interval during December than they did during the summer months. The Beehive has erupted with great regularity several times a week. The Giant has maintained its 5 to 6 day interval for December.

Chief Park Naturalist Condon prepared an article on Vandalism which has been submitted to the Regional Office for review. He also spent considerable time working up some information to send a writer, Miss Lucia Lewis, who inquired for background material for an article she is preparing on some phases of public vandalism.

Natural History Association. Mrs. Alice Quist was hired by the Association to work two afternoons each week to handle the Association's bookkeeping and stenographic work.

Mr. George Marler remained on during the month as a research employee in the Upper Geyser Basin, residing at the Old Faithful Ranger Station.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of 590 vehicles carrying 1,810 persons entered the park during the month as compared with 597 vehicles and 1,839 persons in December 1950. The majority of the travel is attributed to the hunters in the Gardiner area visiting the park after the hunting for the day had ended. The road to the

The Chicago Art Institute returned to Yellowstone the Bison paintings, animal track casts and skulls which were on loan to them for the Grand Lipp exhibit. These were all checked, found to be in good condition and have been carefully stored away.

Research and Observation. Park Naturalist Watson has devoted a good part of his time during the month to a review of all published materials available on the Harris Geyser Basin, preparatory to the preparation of an interpretive manuscript telling the Harris Geyser Basin story.

A large Nicholson's grouse has moved into the community and has been making the rounds to all and possess. There is some question as to whether this is the same bird that visited the same last year. The Rocky Mountain Mule Deer are common all day long in the residential area. During the latter part of the month large numbers of elk were visiting the parade ground and slopes around Mammoth. On several occasions cows and calves have been seen in among the buildings. This was not been common in recent years. At the 19th Park Naturalist Watson watched eleven Bighorn feeding on the slopes of Mount Everts near the Marble Mast Rock.

George Harler reports that all major geysers in the Upper Basin are erupting regularly and that most have actually been functioning on a shorter interval. The Rainbow Geyser has erupted several times during the month and conditions in the Daisy Group are in a state of instability which may result in a [illegible] in the geyser group for the 1955 season. The Grand and Riverside geysers have been erupting on a shorter interval during December than they did during the summer months. The Beehive has erupted with great regularity several times a week. The Giant has maintained its 4 to 4 day interval for December.

Chief Park Naturalist Cowan prepared an article on Rainbow which has been submitted to the Regional Office for review. He also spent considerable time working on some information to [illegible] writer, Miss Lucia Lewis, who inquired for background material for [illegible] she is preparing on some phases of public vendetta.

Natural History Association. Mrs. [illegible] was aided by the Association to work two afternoons each week to handle the Association's bookkeeping and stenographic work.

Mr. George Harler remained on during the month as a research employee in the Upper Geyser Basin, residing at the Old Faithful Ranger Station.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of 790 vehicles carrying 1,810 persons entered the park during the month as compared with 597 vehicles and 1,239 persons in December 1954. The majority of the travel is attributed to the hunters in the [illegible] area visiting the park after the hunting for the day had ended. The road to the

Northeast Entrance was open to travel during the month except for very short periods the latter part of the month affording an excellent game show for those who made the trip through the northern section of the park.

Six snow planes entered the park via the West Entrance, making trips to Madison Junction and Old Faithful.

Ranger Service. Hunting patrols were carried on all month along the northern boundary of the park due to the concentrated hunting activities by large numbers of hunters. Patrols were also made in the Bechler area during the short hunting season along that portion of the park boundary.

The majority of the rangers on duty in the northern part of the park were assigned to elk trapping and other related duties the latter part of the month. The personnel at Lamar Unit started feeding the horse herd and also started putting out hay to attract the buffalo to the area so that they could more easily be captured next month for the buffalo reduction operation.

Twelve rangers received a total of 55 man-hours In-Service Training in the use and practice with firearms.

All remaining lost and found items were disposed of during the month, either by returning them to the owner, the finder or to the storehouse for final disposal.

Office work included the preparation of reports, correspondence, checking the number of forms on hand and mimeographing additional forms, checking the Administrative and Report Manuals for necessary revisions and bringing the personnel record book up to date.

The work was continued in repairing the riding and packing equipment for use next season as well as repairing the horse trailers.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ELK MANAGEMENT. The Gardiner, Mammoth, Crystal Creek and Blacktail Deer Creek elk traps were operated during the entire month but the first elk were captured at the Blacktail and Mammoth traps on December 18. A total of 175 was trapped and furnished the Montana Fish and Game Department for release in open hunting areas in southern Park County. Live elk were not furnished for other purposes during December, but 262 animals will be provided later in the winter to fill approved requests for transplanting and propagation purposes.

Trapping operations at Lamar were unsuccessful due to the presence of bison. The Crystal Creek trap yielded only one catch as bison also interfered with trapping operations at that location. Both traps will be used as soon as the bison can be corralled at Lamar as this will prevent further difficulty with them.

HUNTING SEASON. The Montana Fish and Game Department checking station at Corwin Springs commenced operations on December 4 and recorded 308 elk taken by the close of the month. The District Warden Supervisor estimated that 40 elk were taken by hunters before the checking station opened which brought the total kill to 348 by the end of December. Only 118 elk had been checked through the Corwin station by December 31, 1950.

BISON. Most of the bison in the Lamar Valley had been attracted to the vicinity of the Lamar Unit by a feeding operation but on December 28, when temperatures were above freezing, all but about 60 of the animals moved down the valley to the Horseshoe area. Attempts to lure them back to Lamar were commenced immediately as it is planned to corral the entire herd as early as possible in preparation for the reduction operations which will leave approximately 100 bison in the Lamar area. All preparations for the reduction, other than corralling the bison, are complete.

Bids were opened on December 12 for the butchering of buffalo in connection with the buffalo reduction program and award was made to Henry J. Helgeson of Missoula with a bid of $3.20 per animal.

Forest Fire Protection. The draft of the Annual Forestry Report was finished and was ready to be typed by the close of the month. The Fire Atlas material was completed.

Smokejumper Squad-Leader Robert V. Gorsuch went to Missoula, Montana, where he will receive about a month's in-service training at the Forest Service Parachute Loft. This training will consist of parachute maintenance and rigging. During December he used sewing machines, learning to darn, patch and replace sections in parachutes. He used a four-needle machine. He also received instruction in the operation and repair of single-point release box (on harness). He expects to return about January 15.

Blister Rust Control. On December 17 the Director approved the extension proposed for blister rust control in the Mt. Washburn area.

Building Fire Protection. A list of fire hazards found during the annual building inspection made in the Mammoth area was submitted to the various departments for correction during the winter.

Orders for extinguisher re-charges and foam extinguisher repair parts were sent out during the first part of the month.

Plans were started for building fire control in-service training. This training will be started sometime in March.

Yellowstone [illegible]

Accidents and Public Safety. One Class "B" automobile accident was reported during the month occurring on the West Yellowstone - Gallatin road and involving a tanker truck and a visitor car. Three people were injured in the accident necessitating their being taken to a hospital for treatment. It is interesting to note that the car taking the injured people to the hospital skidded and overturned outside the park boundary. It is not known whether the occupants in this wreck suffered additional injuries or not.

Buffalo Herder James C. Kimberlin suffered painful injuries on the 21st when he was run over by a sled hitched to a team of horses. He incurred a scalp laceration in addition to sprains and bruises. He also suffered a reaction to hospital treatment requiring additional time in the hospital for further treatment.

Law Enforcement. There were no law enforcement cases brought to trial during the month. However, evidence was found that two elk had been poached, one in the Gallatin area and one between Gardiner and Stevens Creek, but the culprits were not apprehended. Night patrols were made over both these sections of road at irregular intervals in an effort to curb poaching activities.

U. S. Commissioner T. Paul Wilcox left on December 14 for Seattle, Washington, where he expected to remain until after the middle of February.

Births. A 9¼ pound boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Povah in Santa Monica, California, on December 14. Mr. Povah is the Vice President of Hamilton Stores, Inc. and Mrs. Povah is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hamilton.

Marriages. Carolyn A. Wohlbrandt, daughter of Park Engineer Philip H. Wohlbrandt, and Richard C. Hunt, of Wheatland, California, who was employed by the National Park Service here as a truck driver the past two seasons, were married at Reno, Nevada, on December 28. They are now living at San Jose, California.

Deaths. Albert L. (Al) McLaughlin, one of the last old-time rangers, died in the Park Hospital in Livingston on December 21. Al was a stagecoach driver in the park before the transportation was motorized and when the civilian organization took over the park from the military in 1918 he was appointed as one of the first park rangers, in which capacity he served until May 1927. After his departure from the Park Service he remained in Gardiner. He was 82 years of age. Burial was in Livingston on December 24.

Personnel. The services of Betty Jane Thomas, seasonal Clerk-Typist, GS-3, and Thomas E. Close, seasonal Storekeeper (General), GS-3, were terminated at the close of business December 7. The services

of Geraldine M. Lindquist, seasonal Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3, and Genevieve E. McCabe, seasonal Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3, were terminated at the close of business December 14.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of Federal Employees Union No. 465 was held in the Canteen on December 3.

The regular monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees local was held in the Canteen on December 17.

Fred T. Johnston
Acting Superintendent

In duplicate

cc Region Two, in quintuple
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